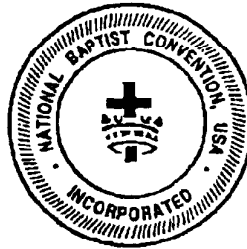


ORGANIZED 1880

National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.

INCORPORATED 1915

(Membership: 8,500,000)



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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May 20, 1997

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

To All Members of Congress:

The National Baptist Convention, USA, Incorporated, is pleased to announce our support for the "Religious Freedom Amendment (H.J. Res. 78)." As Leader of this great body of 8.5 million members, our direction is clear, for we believe in "God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit." The Founding Fathers of this Nation, known as the United States of America, was founded upon the principle of Religious Freedom, to be able to experience that right was affirmed when they wrote the Constitution of the United States. No where else in the World today, is there such a freedom, where everyone has the right to assemble under their beliefs. *Jesus himself said... Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's...*

We are in agreement to the language proposed by the groups sponsoring the amendment. This Convention believes a constitutional amendment is the only way to overturn three (3) decades of court decisions denying us our First Amendment rights, including voluntary prayer in public schools. The proposed language as we understand it is as follows:

To secure the people's right to acknowledge God according to the dictates of conscience:
The people's right to pray and to recognize their religious beliefs, heritage or traditions on public property, including schools, shall not be infringed. The government shall not require any person to join in prayer or other religious activity, initiate or designate school prayers, discriminate against religion, or deny equal access to a benefit on account of religion.*

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Dr. Henry J. Lyons, President
National Baptist Convention, USA, Incorporated